

N Market St
OS 41-101
N/A

ABSTRACT

Ecology and Environment, Inc., the designated Technical Assistance Team (TAT) contractor to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), was directed by the EPA Region X Superfund Response and Investigations Section to conduct a site assessment at the Tosco Corporation - Spokane Terminal (Tosco). The site has operated as a oil products storage and loading terminal since the 1940's, but included an oil refining facility between 1938 and 1953. The Tosco property has been under investigation by EPA since at least 1980, at which time an inspection identified the pollution potential of an abandoned waste pond area and recommended remedial considerations. In 1985 the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) initiated a multiphased remedial investigation to investigate a three mile radius area inclusive of Tosco. In 1987 Ecology documented groundwater contamination adjacent to Tosco; specifically, floating, non-aqueous phase liquids in monitoring well NM-4.

The objectives of the TAT assessment and field activities were to conduct groundwater sampling and obtain additional facility background information for characterizing groundwater contamination, and public health and environmental threats associated with the decommissioned refinery and current Tosco tank farm facility.

The groundwater sampling work conducted by the TAT confirmed the existence of chemical components typical of petroleum in the water collected from well NM-4. This well is located approximately 100 feet directly down gradient of the abandoned refinery waste pond area. At the time of sampling no measurable floating oil product was identified at NM-4, though visible traces were observed. The background wells located upgradient to the waste pond area and tank farm showed no indication of organic contamination.

Groundwater collected from monitoring well NM-2 located southwest of Tosco property contained non-specified organic and halogenated organic contaminants detected by total organic carbon and total organic halogen analyses. Indications are that these contaminants originated from undetermined off-site sources, based on local groundwater gradient conditions, and are not considered to be contributing to the organic compounds detected in NM-4.

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